

women for this sacrifices they have made in this war and rebuked the defeatists who would set an arbitrary date for surrender.

Therefore, I respectfully submit the text of Mr. Wham's speech for the RECORD in the hopes that others will stand with him in support of our troops and the mission for which they fight.

[From the Sentinel, May 8, 2007]

2007 TRIBUTE TO THE TROOPS

(By Jim Wham)

I want to commend the 15th Street Church of God for this event at the Bandshell. This evening of prayer and song forms the perfect occasion to recognize the men and women serving this country in the Armed Forces of the United States. Each one of them and their families are making a sacrifice unlike any other.

Every American when called to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States performs the duty assigned to him or her by the Commander-in-Chief and not by Congressmen and Senators.

I thought of each life of these men and women and all others who served their country. The course and destiny of their lives are set by chance assignment of that duty. Some come back unscathed, others marked by grievous wounds and others never come back.

The month of May is the month we pay honor to the men and women on Armed Services Day a couple of weeks from now, and then a week later, Memorial Day—a day when everyone in this land of liberty must stop, look to the story of the soldiers, sailors and marines who fell on battlefields—went down in sinking ships—in crashing planes—in the deserts—in the jungles—in the towns—all over this world during the entire lifetime of this nation.

The unknown soldiers and the unsung heroes—there are thousands and thousands of them. These gallant men and women most likely will never be known by the people for what they did. They served and they did not ask for glory. Their deeds of valor on battlefields and oceans and in the air never had a chance to be forgotten because they remained unspoken and unknown.

The American people never forget these known and unknown living and dead Americans—this ever expanding LEGION OF HONOR has never let their country down and no one in this country should ever let them down.

Jesus tells us “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.” The peacemakers—they are the men and women in the American Armed Forces—the peacemakers who in defending freedom do so to bring peace to the world—God's world and to the children of God.

The tyrants foment conflict and war. The armed forces of the U.S. are always against the tyrant—never in support of the tyrant, and these American men and women we honor today—honor them for opposing a tyranny of a new dark age, a tyranny of worldwide terrorism—a dark age spawned from the dens of terrorists throughout the world even in this country and in our allies Britain and Israel as well as in countless other nations.

These insane religious fanatics misuse their religion to cultivate and persuade thousands of suicide bombers to destroy multi-thousands of innocent people who are unlucky enough to be at the wrong place at the wrong time when the suicide bomber explodes himself in their midst.

This war in Iraq is no civil war—it is a war against gangs of vicious mad dog criminals who want to kill off any democratic government that can be formed—a government that people yearn for and deserve. These crimi-

nals know that they cannot succeed as long as American troops are in Iraq helping good people form a democracy.

These criminals hide in the casbahs and mountains while promoting their lackeys to kill themselves and others, hoping that such killings will aid the second-guessers in America to oppose the Commander-in-Chief by insisting on a day of surrender—a day to leave the Middle East—a day to quit any resistance against the terrorists.

These second-guessers proclaim to the world that the war is lost; their words bring smiles to the evil faces of those marauders. These quitters are like a quarterback shouting to the other team. “We’re not going to pass, we’re runnin’ around the left end.”

We are running away from you—the terrorists—is the message of the quitter.

If they want to win a war they say is lost, they, the second guessers not the President, must change their tune because quitters never win.

The Scripture proclaims “If the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle.” There are far too many uncertain trumpets being sounded in Washington today and in the national news media. These uncertain trumpets inspire nothing but joy in the haunts of the terrorists who love to hear those mournful tunes in the USA.

When these friends from Hell see the leader of the Senate on television proclaim the war is lost, the terrorists around the world applaud and promote more suicide bombers to hasten the day of American surrender.

And when they see and hear the Senate leader condemn the Vice President, they applaud again and try to kill him in Pakistan.

Don't these second guessing quitters know that the United States has a vital interest to contest the terrorist in the Middle East—in that caldron of hatred and insanity which is the launching pad for terrorists against this country and its allies?

Don't be second-guessers give any thought at all to the downside of an American surrender by pulling out of that part of the world?

Every concerned American who stops, looks, and listens to the present day happenings knows the disastrous downside of an American pull-out from Iraq.

It would proclaim to the world an American confession that terrorism has won a victory over the United States.

World power of the United States would evaporate.

No longer would the United States lead in the battle for peace and freedom which is so necessary to the salvation of our own way of life.

Do the quitters ever envision their day at the Baghdad airport—when a thousand transport planes land and take off with the American army to the dismay of every decent person who knows that there goes the last best chance for peace and freedom?

Why can't these quitters envision that into the vacuum left behind, the criminal gangs of the Taliban, al Qaeda, the death squads of both Sunnis and Shiites will seize the opportunity in a common cause against their own people and against America and her allies by joining together these legions of evil against the decent people of the Middle East.

Doesn't it occur to the quitter that a coalition of Iran, Iraq and Syria under despotic leaders will bring pressure and threat of conquest against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as Saddam Hussein attempted to do in the 1990's Desert Storm?

Can't the quitters envision the utter chaos that will come when the nuclear bomb is developed in Iran or acquired from North Korea and those reckless fanatics threaten their surrounding countries to join the crowd?

If America is gone from Iraq, will that insane fanatic from Iran, Ahmadinejad press the button that will lead to a premature Armageddon in Israel?

A hundred years ago, when Teddy Roosevelt was President, he spoke these words about this nation's destiny: “We have no choice as to whether or not we shall play a great part in the world. That is already the case. “All that we can decide is whether we shall play it well or play it ill.”

Thus far, we have played it well but we are now at the crossroads of the decision that will affect all mankind. The question is, will we stay and fight for freedom and for peace or will we forfeit the field to those vicious criminals who in no way respect the God-given miracle of life.

Rudyard Kipling—the great British patriot and poet of the 19th and 20th Centuries put to verse the lesson of perseverance in long lasting battles. Here's the way he wrote it:

“How do we know, when the long fight rages,  
On the old, stale front that we cannot shake,  
And it looks as though we were locked for ages.

How do we know they are going to break?

There is no lull in the level firing,  
Nothing has shifted except the sun.

Yet we can feel they are tiring, tiring—

Yet we can tell they are ripe to run.

Something wavers, and, while we wonder,

Their centre-trenches are emptying out,

And, before their useless flanks go under,

Our guns have pounded retreat to rout.”

In other words, we win by hanging on.

My friends, American forces are going to win this war against terrorism. The war is not lost and no one should listen to the quitters because they are the losers of the present and the future.

If we but stand fast with the troops and our Commander-in-Chief, the fiends of Hell will lose. And the sacrifice of these gallant men and women we honor today will not have been in vain. They must not be let down by quitting and surrender.

## THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I hereby submit, for the RECORD, the text of my report to you on the activities of the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, held in early July in Kyiv, Ukraine.

I had the honor to chair the U.S. Delegation, which included Senator BEN CARDIN as the deputy head of delegation, as well as our Majority Leader, Mr. STENY HOYER. Other participants on the U.S. Delegation were Representatives CHRIS SMITH, MARCY KAPTUR, LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER, MICHAEL McNULTY, ROBERT ADERHOLT, MIKE MCINTYRE, HILDA L. SOLIS, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, DORIS MATSUI and GWEN S. MOORE.

As the report details, the delegation was active at the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which is an inter-parliamentary body consisting of 56 participating States from North America, Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as numerous partner states from the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. Like the OSCE as a whole, its mandate embraces the comprehensive definition of international security to include not only the traditional military political-military issues